

2 February 1979

UNCODED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 2 February 1979

The Director chaired the meeting. []

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Lehman reported that Khomeini has scheduled a press conference for tomorrow morning, which would be about midnight here. Speculation is that he will announce an Islamic Council, and Prime Minister Bakhtiar will resign and become the head of some caretaker government that will work with the Council. Pressure exists on Khomeini to end the strikes. The situation remains unpredictable. []

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Updating the PRC/USSR/Vietnam situation, Lehman said the Soviets have been conducting intensive reconnaissance along the PRC/Vietnam border. []

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[] Lehman added that the Soviets seem to be having difficulties moving low priority material across the Trans-Siberian Railway. []

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Lehman noted that the PRC 11th Army is moving and all units in the southern region facing Vietnam are also moving. Lehman added that eight armies and 24 divisions are now involved []. Fourteen divisions are in the south on the Vietnam border, and a second echelon seems to be moving down from the north to back them up. Lehman speculated that this activity seems more than what would be required for a punitive border skirmish, and the PRC is probably tempted to go on to Hanoi. A lot of room exists for miscalculation among the PRC, the Soviet Union, and Vietnam. Lehman said that we are not aware of PRC Vice Premier Teng's private statements to the President regarding this situation. Mr. Carlucci noted that in his public statements Teng has come close to indicating a commitment to invade. In response to the Director's question, Lehman said that Teng is scheduled to return to the PRC on 9 February. The Director noted that the President had asked about combat capabilities of the PRC divisions. Lehman suggested that the Vietnamese forces are better experienced and better armed. Mr. Carlucci added that General Tighe believes that the Vietnamese could easily defeat the Chinese. The Director asked that NFAC [] tonight including the quantity and quality of the forces in the border area and the status of the division that started out three days ago from Da Nang. Mr. Carlucci suggested that NFAC may also want to include likely Soviet reactions to any Chinese moves. The Director said that the weather conditions in Northern China should also be addressed and that periodic reports should appear in [] regarding any movement in that area. Lehman emphasized the seriousness of this situation and said that the Administration should be concerned. In response to Mr. Carlucci's comment on Teng's reaction to the Administration's approach to this problem, the Director shared his understanding that Teng was noncommittal. (Action: NFAC) []

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McMahon highlighted a report about increased uneasiness in Vietnam regarding the split between the North and South in the government. Guerrilla activity is evident along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. [REDACTED]

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McMahon said reports indicate that war preparations, including the building of air raid shelters, are continuing in South China. [REDACTED]

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Outlining a report from Morocco on the Shah of Iran, McMahon said ^{and} that former Iranian Ambassador to the U.S. Zehidi and the Shah's wife ~~is~~ ^{are} with the Shah. Zehidi is trying to encourage the Shah to return to Iran or to send him as his emissary to take over the army and drive out Khomeini. The Shah is expected to stay in Morocco for 2-3 weeks. Observers describe him as a beaten man. [REDACTED]

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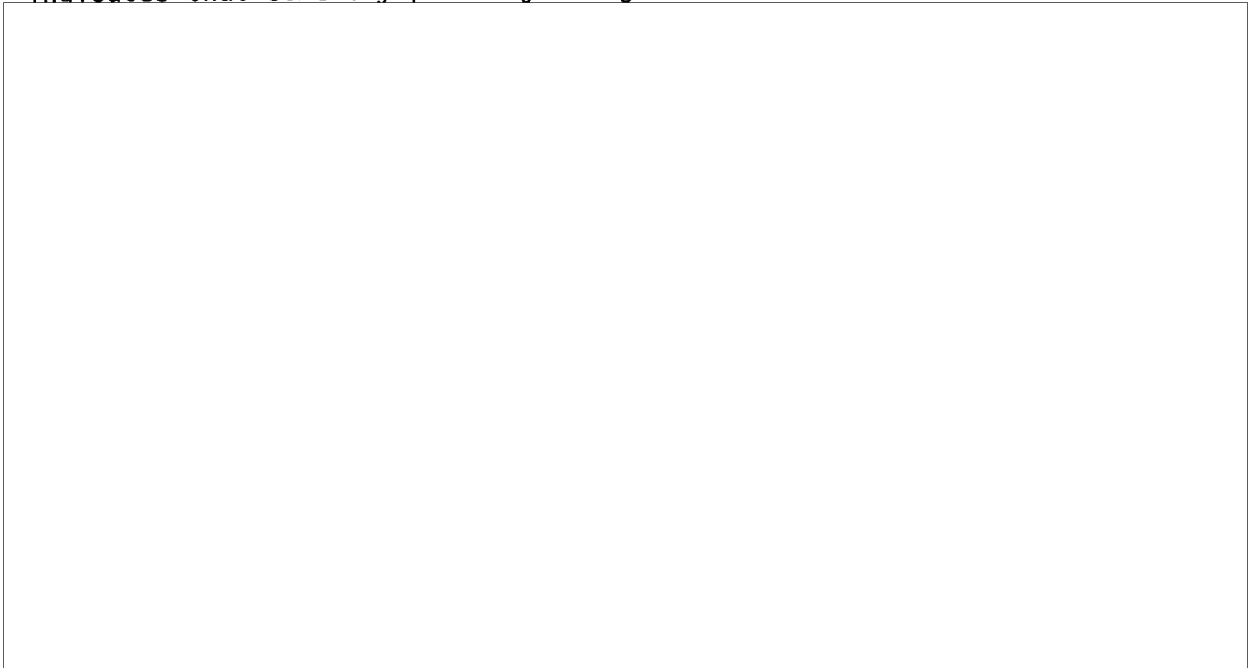
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The Director highlighted his and Hetu's turning the tables on a Los Angeles correspondent who had recently interviewed Khomeini. She reported that during the entire interview, Khomeini, surrounded by electronic equipment and numerous young, Western-educated people, stared out the window mystically. The equipment was used to tape the conversation which was later transmitted by phone to individuals in 12 cities in Iran and then disseminated throughout the country via tape cassettes. []

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Hetu said that he was disturbed over a recent discussion with Washington Post columnist Pincus, who asked why Public Affairs had seven file categories listed in the Federal Register as opposed to one listed in previous years. Hetu explained that there has not been an increase in the files kept but only a reorganization of the file system. He opined that Pincus' question indicates that somebody probably brought his attention to this matter.



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Hetu advised that he had forwarded three DCI Notes to the Director for approval. Mr. Carlucci said that they were in his office and he would like to discuss them with Hetu. []

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The Director highlighted yesterday's PRC meeting on the Middle East, saying that U.S. policy was now at a difficult crossroads. He asked Bowie to have NIO Ames determine what he could do to support Secretary of Defense Brown's forthcoming trip to the Middle East. Bowie said that Ames has had at least one two-hour session with the Secretary's staff helping him prepare for the trip. Later in the meeting, the Director asked that NFAC provide Secretary Brown the latest appraisals of Afghanistan and South Yemen. (Action: NFAC) []

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Noting that he had forwarded a memo on this topic, Hitz suggested that a multi-disciplinary briefing team be assembled to handle the numerous Congressional requests for information on Iran. He said that the Minority members of the Senate Energy Committee have asked to be briefed at Headquarters for four hours on 6 February on the impact of Iran on the Persian Gulf States. Bowie said that he has asked NIO Ames to develop a set of briefings that would be appropriate for such Congressional requests. The Director asked NFAC and OLC to work together on this matter. Bowie noted his preference for briefing the Congressmen at Headquarters rather than on the Hill and said it would be better if there were some Majority members included in the 6 February briefing. (Action: NFAC & OLC) [redacted]

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Hitz noted a request from Senator Baker to receive the NID and said that this would be arranged based on the Senator's position as the Minority Leader and as an ex officio member of the Intelligence Committee. [redacted]

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Hitz advised that as a result of the Director's meeting with Senator Bayh, Chief SALT Support Staff [redacted] was notified that he would be able to review the SSCI's study on SALT in about 10 days. [redacted]

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Hitz noted that Congressman Young (R., Fla.) has been named the 10th member of the HPSCI. [redacted]

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Mr. Carlucci advised Hitz that Congressional Staffer Sullivan had been instructed that the Dresser Report should be framed to "lay it on the CIA." Hitz said that he would look into the matter. (Action: OLC) [redacted]

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Wortman noted receipt of an FOIA request from a Polish librarian for a document drafted by [] on academic relations. []

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[] noted his understanding that the SSCI thought his staff's radar report was responsive. SSCI Staffer Childs said that the SSCI Advisory Panel would like to meet with Camm and representatives from his SIGINT and PHOTINT staffs, and the Director concurred in their doing so. []

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Hitz said that the HPSCI has requested a copy of the NITs. Bowie expressed concern that releasing these would be tantamount to releasing Executive Branch policy considerations and before doing so, Dr. Brzezinski should be consulted. The Director expressed concern that releasing them would prevent the formulation of the NITs from being as candid a process as it has been. The Director suggested that Hitz postpone making a response and that this item be put on his agenda for his next meeting with Brzezinski. (Action: NSC/C) []

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Hetu reminded attendees that the Director would appear on "Issues and Answers" on Channel 7 at noon on 4 February. Bowie suggested that the Director be prepared to answer any questions about the alleged "intelligence failure" in Iran. When Hetu mentioned that he had forwarded suggested responses, Mr. Carlucci said he had some difficulties with them and wanted to discuss them. The Director said that he would be meeting with Hetu at 0930 tomorrow to prepare for this session and anyone else wishing to join them could do so. []

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